

THE NEW YORK TIMES
5 May 1974

P. Crewson, John M.

Rockefeller, Nelson

CIA 8550 - Report

CIA 101 Bush, George

0197 Overseas
Press Club

ROCKEFELLER HITS INQUIRIES ON C.I.A.

Says Congress Panels Have
Exposed Intelligence Work
and Aided Nation's Foes

By JOHN M. CREWDSON

Special to The New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO, May 3— Vice President Rockefeller criticized today the recently concluded Congressional investigations of the Federal intelligence agencies for having "exposed American foreign intelligence operations to the world, to the great profit of potential enemies and the grave distress of foreign friends."

Mr. Rockefeller's remarks, in a luncheon speech to the Commonwealth Club here, marked the first reaction from a senior Ford Administration official to the final report of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence activities, which was issued last week.

The Senate report contained an extensive review of the history and operations of the Central Intelligence Agency, although such sensitive items as the names of C.I.A. agents, the size of the agency's budget and details about the agency's covert operations abroad were not published.

At a news conference before the luncheon, Mr. Rockefeller took issue with Ronald Reagan, a Republican Presidential candidate, calling Mr. Reagan's recent criticism of the renegotiation of the Panama Canal treaty "one of the worst forms of destructive demagoguery."

'An Absolute Absurdity'

The Vice President said that Mr. Reagan, who served eight years as Governor of California, had had no experience in foreign affairs, and he declared that Mr. Reagan's comparison of moves by the Ford Administration to return control of the canal to the Panamanians to giving back the Louisiana Purchase was "an absolute absurdity."

He said that, under the original canal treaty, the United States had never owned the canal but had only the "rights of sovereignty," and he termed Mr. Reagan's attacks "a serious illustration of what can be an irresponsible misrepresentation

Mr. Rockefeller added that although he saw no way Mr. Reagan, despite his sweep of Republican convention delegates in last Saturday's Texas primary, could wrest his party's Presidential nomination from Mr. Ford, he believed that Mr. Reagan might repeat his victory in other Southern primaries.

Mr. Rockefeller, who delivered the 10th in his series of address as on American foreign policy before an audience of nearly 2,000 persons, noted that he headed last year a commission set up by President Ford to examine the C.I.A.'s domestic operations.

Results of Inquiry

That inquiry, which issued its final report 11 months ago, "definitely found certain domestic violations," the Vice President said, but uncovered "on the whole a vitally important and reasonably conducted intelligence operation."

"We made a series of recommendations to correct the situation, which the President has adopted," he said.

The Senate committee and its counterpart panel in the House, Mr. Rockefeller said, went "far beyond the domestic scene" in their inquiries, and he asserted that their public reports "have had a most serious impact on the effectiveness of our foreign policy and national security."

The House voted against publishing its panels full report, but extensive excerpts were pointed after a copy was made available to newsmen.

George Bush, the new Director of Central Intelligence, praised the select committee last night when he told an awards dinner of the Overseas Press Club in Washington that the panel had pointed out abuses while continuing "to recognize the mission to have a strong intelligence agency."

Mr. Rockefeller did not elaborate today on which of the committee's disclosures he believed had contributed to damaging national security, but he cautioned that "if we are to avoid war and protect our interests, we require both the most modern intelligence-gathering system and effective covert operations." "An America without an effective intelligence agency," he added, "is a sitting duck in a world of loaded shotguns."

The Rockefeller commission also investigated C.I.A. plots to assassinate Prime Minister Fidel Castro of Cuba and Patrice Lumumba, the late Congolese leader, but turned its findings over to the Senate select committee without making them public. The Senate panel released a report on the assassination plots last November.